

H
O
R
R
O
R



NO. 14
APRIL - SEPT

THE VAULT OF HORROR



10¢

FEATURING THE NEW TREND IN MAGAZINES

ILLUSTRATED
SUSPENSE STORIES
WE DARE YOU TO READ!



10¢

FAMOUS 1950s EC COMICS!

H
O
R
R
O
R



NO. 3
APR



150
190
CANADA

THE VAULT OF HORROR[®]

FEATURING THE NEW TREND IN MAGAZINES...

**ILLUSTRATED
SUSPENSE STORIES**
WE DARE YOU TO READ!



GET ANY OR ALL...

...OF THESE EC COMICS FROM RUSS COCHRAN'S REPRINT LINE! THE ENTIRE BACKLIST IS STILL AVAILABLE AND READY TO SHIP TO YOU! NOW IS THE TIME TO REVIEW YOUR COLLECTION AND FILL IN THOSE GAPS.

AND, WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER TWO ISSUES FROM EAST COAST'S E.C. CLASSIC REPRINT LINE OF THE MID-70s. QUANTITY IS VERY LIMITED ON THESE, FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED ON THESE 32 PAGE COMICS.



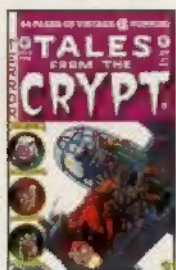
RCP CRYPT #1



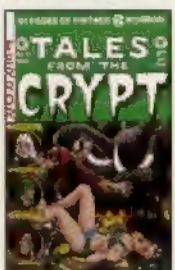
RCP CRYPT #2



RCP CRYPT #3



RCP CRYPT #4



RCP CRYPT #5



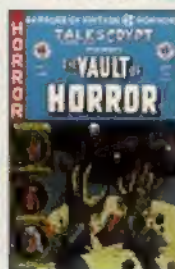
RCP CRYPT #6



RCP VAULT #1



RCP VAULT #2



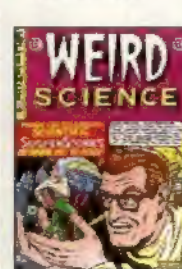
RCP VAULT #3



RCP VAULT #4



RCP VAULT #5



EAST COAST #11



RCP HAUNT #1



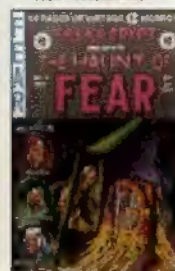
RCP HAUNT #2



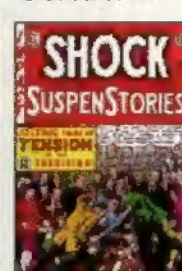
RCP HAUNT #3



RCP HAUNT #4



RCP HAUNT #5



EAST COAST #12

RCP CRYPT

#1: CRYPT 31 (1952)
CRIME 12 (1962)

#2: CRYPT 34 (1952)
CRIME 15 (1962)

#3: CRYPT 24 (1951)
CRIME 21 (1964)

#4: CRYPT 43 (1954)
CRIME 18 (1963)

#5: CRYPT 32 (1962)
CRIME 23 (1964)

#6: CRYPT 36 (1963)
CRIME 8 (1961)

RCP VAULT

#1: VAULT 28 (1962)
W SCI 18 (1962)

#2: VAULT 33 (1963)
W SCI 20 (1963)

#3: VAULT 28 (1962)
W SCI 7 (1961)

#4: VAULT 35 (1964)
W SCI 15 (1962)

#5: VAULT 18 (1961)
W SCI 11 (1961)

RCP HAUNT

#1: HAUNT 14 (1952)
W FAN 13 (1952)

#2: HAUNT 18 (1953)
W FAN 14 (1952)

#3: HAUNT 19 (1953)
W FAN 18 (1953)

#4: HAUNT 16 (1952)
W FAN 16 (1952)

#5: HAUNT 27 (1954)
W FAN 22 (1953)

**CONTENTS OF
EAST COAST COMICS**
#11 W SCI 12 (1960)
32 page issue

#12 SHOCK 2 (1952)
32 page issue

WHEN ORDERING PLEASE IDENTIFY AS RCP (OR EAST COAST) TITLE ISSUE #; FOR EXAMPLE "RCP CRYPT #1."
RCP CRYPT #1 IS \$5. RCP CRYPT #2-4, RCP VAULT #1-3 AND RCP HAUNT #1-5 ARE \$2. EACH; ALL OTHER ISSUES
ARE \$3. EACH. EAST COASTs ARE \$10 EACH. INCLUDE \$2 PER ORDER FOR S&H (\$3 OUTSIDE US).



Send orders to:

Russ Cochran, Publisher

417-256-2224

P.O. Box 469

West Plains, MO 65775

OR to order call 1-800-EC-CRYPT and ask for the order desk. USE THIS NUMBER FOR ORDERS ONLY!

Vault of Horror (USPS 009307) Vol. 1, No. 3, April 1993. Published quarterly in October, January, April and July by Russ Cochran, Publisher, 202 Aid, West Plains, MO 65775-3532. Second-class postage paid at West Plains, MO. Entire contents © 1993 by William M. Gaines, Agent, Inc. Vault of Horror #14 © 1950 by L.L. Publishing Co., Inc., re © 1982 by William M. Gaines, Agent, Inc. All rights reserved. Nothing herein contained may be reproduced without the written permission of William M. Gaines, New York, New York. Annual subscription rate \$6 (\$9 outside US payable in US funds). Printed in U.S.A. Postmaster: send address changes to Vault of Horror, Russ Cochran, POB 469, West Plains, MO 65775-0469.

THE VAULT OF HORROR!

WELCOME, ONCE AGAIN, TO THE VAULT OF HORROR! I SEE WE HAVE MANY *NEW* READERS WITH US THIS TIME! HEH, HEH! I TRUST YOU HAVE PROPERLY PREPARED YOURSELVES! BY THAT I MEAN, YOU *HAVE* MADE SURE *ALL* THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE LOCKED, HAVEN'T YOU? FOR, THE TALE I AM ABOUT TO UNFOLD WILL TRULY BE AN INITIATION FOR YOU! YOU OTHER READERS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE... READY? HEH, HEH, HEH! GOOD! NOW, LIE BACK IN YOUR GRAVE AND GET A GOOD GRIP ON YOUR NERVES BECAUSE WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN THE STORY I CALL:

VOODOO VENGEANCE!



FOR THE PAST THIRTEEN YEARS, CALEB STANDISH HAD LEFT HIS PALATIAL SUITE OF OFFICES AT PRECISELY FIVE P.M., AND HAD WALKED ONE BLOCK TO THE GARAGE WHERE HE ALWAYS PARKED HIS CAR, BUT *THIS* DAY, HE LEFT *EARLY*...



NOW, THAT'S STRANGE! I'D SWEAR THIS SHOP WASN'T HERE BEFORE! I PASS HERE AT LEAST TWICE A DAY! FUNNY HOW I NEVER NOTICED IT!



HMM... ANTIQUES... ODDITIES! SOME NICE THINGS IN THE WINDOW! I THINK I'LL GO IN... MIGHT BE ABLE TO PICK UP SOMETHING NICE FOR SALLY!



I'M LOOKING FOR A GIFT TO GIVE MY WIFE, BUT IT'S SO DARK IN HERE I CAN'T SEE YOUR WARES! COULDN'T WE HAVE A BIT MORE LIGHT?

THE POWERS OF THE DARKNESS, SIR, ARE INFINITE! FRET NOT, FOR I HAVE THAT WHICH YOU SEEK!



HERE, SIR! I THINK YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS... THIS... *DOLL!*

A *DOLL*? NO! I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND! MAYBE YOU COULD SHOW ME SOMETHING ELSE!



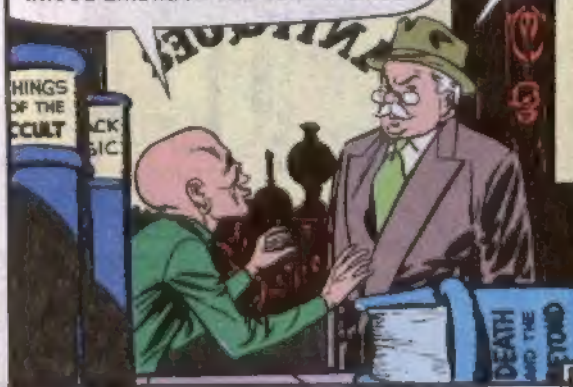
IF YOU DO NOT CARE FOR *THIS* DOLL, SIR, PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ONE NOT SO *ORDINARY*! PERHAPS... A *VOODOO DOLL*? HMMM?

A *VOODOO DOLL*? WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



A *WAX DOLL* THAT WILL BE THE EXACT DUPLICATE OF ANYONE YOU NAME! ONLY, OVER *THIS* DOLL I SHALL CAST A *VOODOO SPELL*! AND WHATSOEVER HAPPENS TO THE DOLL, SO SHALL IT ALSO HAPPEN TO THE PERSON IN WHOSE LIKENESS THE DOLL IS MADE!

ROT!



HEH! YOU DISBELIEVE! BUT IT'S **TRUE!** I... I DON'T BELIEVE YOU? I THINK I'LL... I'LL LEAVE!

IN THE PAST I HAVE MADE MANY SUCH DOLLS... FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT WISH... AN... HARM TO ANOTHER?



BEFORE YOU GO, REMEMBER THIS! IF EVER YOU WISH TO DO SOMEONE HARM... OR TO **KILL** SOMEONE... COME TO ME! MY VOODOO DOLLS...

ST... STOP!
T... TAKE YOUR HANDS FROM ME!



HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! REMEMBER WELL MY WORDS, SIR! **REMEMBER WELL!** HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH!

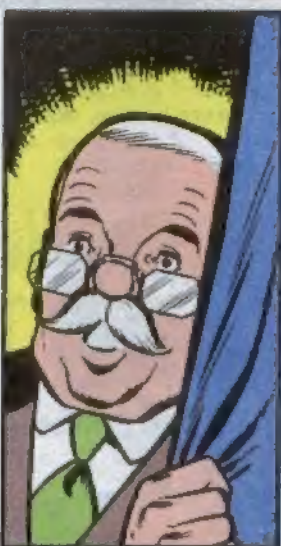


HEH! HEH! OLD CALES CERTAINLY LEFT **THERE** IN A HURRY! HE HAD BEEN GREATLY FRIGHTENED AND ALL THE WAY HOME THE WEIRD SHOPKEEPER'S WORDS ECHOED AND RE-ECHOED THROUGH HIS MIND! HEH! HEH! HEH!



CALES ENTERED HIS HOUSE... AND AS HE QUIETLY CLOSED THE DOOR, HE HEARD HIS WIFE'S VOICE...

SOUNDS LIKE SALLY IS TALKING TO SOMEONE! SHE DOESN'T EXPECT ME HOME THIS EARLY... I'LL SNEAK IN AND SURPRISE THE SWEET, YOUNG THING!



BUT, SALLY, HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO WAIT?

DARLING, DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT! FOR ALL THE MONEY HE'LL LEAVE ME WHEN HE DIES, I CAN AFFORD TO BE NICE TO THE OL' GOAT! ...SIMMEE A KISS...





SOMETIME LATER HE PARKED HIS CAR AND WALKED TOWARD HIS OFFICE. SUDDENLY, HE STOPPED...



"IF EVER YOU WISH TO DO SOME-ONE HARM, COME TO ME!"



THE NEXT MORNING, CALEB BROUGHT THE SHOPKEEPER PHOTOGRAPHS OF SALLY AND WAS TOLD TO RETURN AT MID-NIGHT! AFTER A NERVE-WRACKING DAY, HE RETURNED TO THE SHOP AND WAS USHERED DOWN INTO THE CELLAR...

SIT THERE, SIR! YOU MUST BE PRESENT WHILE I PERFORM THE **BLACK MAGIC** RITUAL WHICH WILL CHANGE THIS WAX FIGURE INTO A **WOODOO DOLL!**

YES...YES, OF COURSE! P...PLEASE HURRY, WON'T YOU...I... I FEEL QUITE... NERVOUS!

THE SHOPKEEPER BEGAN THE **BLACK MAGIC** RITUAL. HE CHANTED WEIRD INCANTATIONS AND DANCED BEFORE THE DOLL...AND CALEB SAT WATCHING...



FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS, THE RITUAL CONTINUED! AS THE SHOPKEEPER BECAME MORE AND MORE FRENZIED, CALEB GREW MORE AND MORE FRIGHTENED. HIS CLOTHES WERE WET WITH PERSPIRATION AND HIS MIND WAS IN TURMOIL...



CALEB LEFT THE ANTIQUE SHOP AND WENT HOME. HE SLEPT FITFULLY, BUT NEXT DAY HE AWOKE RESTED AND COMPOSED...

I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD! I... I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT REALLY HAPPENED! BUT THERE IS THE WAX DOLL TO PROVE IT! I... I WONDER IF WHAT HE SAID ABOUT IT IS TRUE! I... I MUST FIND OUT!



GOOD MORNING, CALEB! OH... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STATUE! AND... WHY, IT'S A... A STATUE OF ME!



SUDDENLY, IT WAS OVER...

HERE, SIR, IS YOUR DOLL! REMEMBER...WHATSOEVER HAPPENS TO THIS DOLL, SO SHALL IT ALSO HAPPEN TO THE PERSON IN WHOSE LIKENESS THE DOLL WAS MADE!

I... I UNDERSTAND! HERE... HERE IS YOUR FEE! I... I... I WANT... T-TO GO H-HOME NOW!



WHY, CALEB! THAT IS A STATUE OF ME, ISN'T IT?

ER... AH... YES! YES, I HAD IT MADE! BUT... I DON'T WANT YOU TO TOUCH IT! IT... IT'S VERY... DELICATE! YES, DELICATE! PROMISE YOU WON'T TOUCH IT!



OF COURSE, CALEB, YOU DEAR! IF IT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY, I PROMISE NOT TO GO NEAR IT! YOU SWEET DARLING! YOU'RE NOT ANGRY WITH LI'L OL' ME... ARE YOU, DEAR?

OH, SALLY... SALLY, HOW CAN YOU SAY THOSE THINGS WHEN YOU DON'T MEAN THEM? HOW CAN YOU LIE TO ME LIKE THAT?

NO... NO, SALLY... I'M... NOT ANGRY...



THAT'S GOOD! OH... THERE'S THE PHONE! I'LL GET IT!

ALL RIGHT, SALLY! I'LL JUST PUT THE STATUE UP HERE ON THE SHELF... OUT OF HARM'S WAY!



DARLING, YOU CAN'T COME TODAY! MY HUSBAND'S HOME!
...YES, I'LL MEET YOU TONIGHT!
SAME PLACE...YES!...YES, OF
COURSE I LOVE YOU...NOW,
GOOD-BYE...

?

THE CHEAT! THE LIAR! IF SHE
THINKS SHE'S GOING TO MEET
HER LOVER TONIGHT, SHE'S
MISTAKEN! I'LL STOP HER...
BUT HOW? HOW...WAIT! THE
VOODOO DOLL!

WILL IT WORK? I WONDER!...BUT IT'S
THE ONLY WAY I CAN STOP HER!
I'LL...I'LL TRY IT! I'LL...I'LL JUST...

...SCRATCH THE
STATUE'S ARM...
LIKE THIS!

EE
EE
EE
EK

THE SCREAM SHOCKED CALEB INTO ACTION! QUICKLY
PUTTING THE DOLL BACK ON ITS SHELF, HE RAN TO
THE KITCHEN...

CALEB! DO SOMETHING! CALL THE
SALLY! SALLY, DOCTOR! I JUST CUT MY ARM WITH
THIS BUTCHER KNIFE! IT'S BLEEDING
TERRIBLY! DO SOMETHING!

CUT YOURSELF?...
GOOD HEAVENS!
HE WAS RIGHT! IT...
IT WORKS!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE,
YOU IDIOT! CAN'T YOU SEE
I'M BLEEDING! GET A DOCTOR!

AFTER THE DOCTOR HAD BANDAGED SALLY'S ARM,
HE GAVE HER A SLEEPING PILL, AND LEFT. NATUR-
ALLY, SHE DIDN'T MEET HER BOY-FRIEND THAT
NIGHT, BUT CALEB WASN'T AS HAPPY AS YOU AS
MIGHT EXPECT!

IT'S AMAZING! WITH THIS DOLL
I HOLD SALLY'S LIFE IN MY HANDS!
IT'S...IT'S WEIRD! I'M ALMOST
AFRAID OF IT!

POOR CALES! HE DISLIKED HURTING SALLY BECAUSE HE STILL LOVED HER! BUT HE WAS JEALOUS, AND IF THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY HE COULD KEEP HER, THAT WAS HOW IT WOULD BE! WELL, FIENDS, SALLY RECOVERED RAPIDLY... AND ONE NIGHT...



CALES, I'M GOING TO VISIT AN OLD GIRL FRIEND! I...AH...MAY BE A LITTLE LATE SO DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME!

HA! SHE DOESN'T FOOL ME! I HEARD HER MAKE A DATE WITH HER LOVER!



SHE MUST THINK I'M A FOOL! WELL, I'LL SHOW HER HOW FOOLISH I AM! I'LL JUST BREAK THE DOLL'S LEG THIS TIME! THERE!



SALLY! SALLY! ARE YOU HURT? WH...WHAT HAPPENED?

CALES! HELP ME! I FELL! MY...MY LEG! I...I THINK IT'S BROKEN!



ONCE AGAIN THE DOCTOR WAS SUMMONED. SALLY'S LEG HAD BEEN BROKEN AND SHE HAD TO REMAIN IN BED FOR A LONG WHILE. HEH, HEH! CALES WAS VERY HAPPY! BUT IT DIDN'T LAST FOREVER! SALLY BECAME WELL...

OH, DARLING, I KNOW IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME! BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT! CALES WOULDN'T LEAVE ME FOR A MINUTE! HE'S SUCH A PEST...YES, DON...I'LL MEET YOU TONIGHT! GOOD-BYE, DARLING...



CALES! WHA...? WH...I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT!

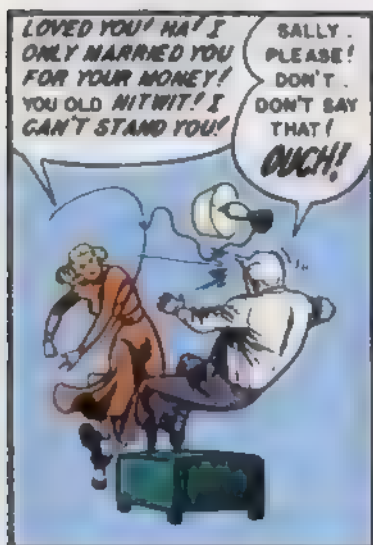
DON'T PRETEND, DEAR! I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, BUT...BUT I CAN'T BE ANGRY WITH YOU! SALLY, PLEASE...I LOVE YOU.



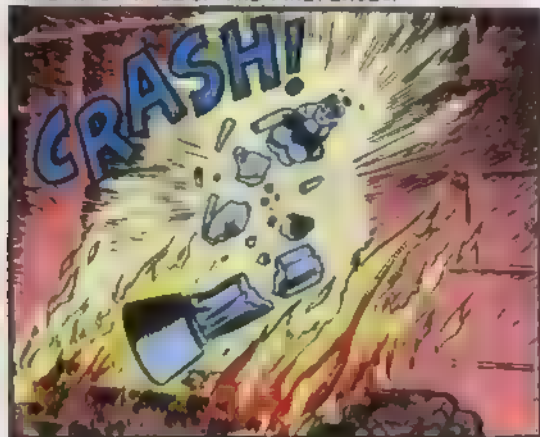
WHY, YOU OLD FOOL! YOU BEEN SPYING ON ME, THAT'S WHAT! SPYING ON ME!

SALLY, PLEASE...DON'T! I'VE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING! I BEG OF YOU... LEAVE THAT MAN! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! PLEASE, DARLING, PLEASE! YOU LOVED ME ONCE...





HIS FACE CONTORTED IN STARK TERROR, CALES COULD ONLY WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THE WAX IMAGE OF SALLY SAILED OVER HEAD AND STRUCK THE INNER WALL OF THE FIREPLACE...



THE PIECES FELL ON THE BURNING LOGS THE LICKING FLAMES LEAPED AROUND THEM AND THEY BEGAN TO MELT



WELL, DEAR READERS, THAT WAS A *SMASHING* CLIMAX, WASN'T IT? TOO BAD SALLY WAS SUCH A *HOT-HEAD*! SHE REALLY *WENT TO PIECES* OVER HER *SHATTERED* ROMANCE! HEH! HEH! HEH! NOW THE POOR THING IS ALL *BROKEN UP*! YEP-OLD CALES FINALLY *MELTED* SALLY'S COLD HEART IN ONE *SOUL-SEARING* SCENE,

DIDN'T HE? HEH! HEH! HEH! NOW THAT YOU'RE *WARMED UP* TO MY TALES, *PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER* AND READ ON... HEH! HEH! READ ON!





THE VAULT-KEEPER'S CORNER

Mr. Vault-Keeper,

I would very much like it if you would send me a picture of your slimy self. I always read your comics on the bus ride home because I'm the last one off. The tale I liked best is "The Mask of Horror" in [RCP VAULT #5]. I only have two books. And I also like to draw pictures of the three storytellers, The Old Witch, The Crypt-Keeper and my favorite one, The Vault-Keeper.

Jesse Ryan Deering
Omer, MI

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I just wanted to ask for your picture, but as long as I am here I guess I'll tell you some things, like my fave mag is yours. I just recently got a subscription to all of the horror mags. My fave story is "The Mask of Horror" [in RCP VAULT #5].

Alan
Beathalta, IL

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I love your comics. I am your biggest fan. I have The VAULT OF HORROR 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10. Did you ever think about getting your own show like "Tales from the Crypt?" It would be really cool if you did. Could you send me an autograph?

Blaise Caroleo
Staten Island, NY

See there, HBO! My picture they want, my autograph they want! Amicus that I was star-material. I'll even pay for the puppet-rod implants (CK says they're tax deductible)! —VK

Dear VK,

I just want to say that EC comics are the best. I buy every issue. My favorite tale is from [RCP VAULT #3], "Graft In Concrete," another favorite is from [RCP CRYPT #5] "Squarsh...Anyone?" There's a certain tale I've been dying to read, could you tell me what upcoming issue it will be in, or if there is one? It's called "Dead Wait."

Billy Ray Price
Meridian, MS

"Dead Wait" appeared in VAULT OF HORROR #23, which will be our VAULT #12, and I told the tale, so you know it's good! If

you can't wait, it's also in Gladstone's VAULT #4 (see our ad elsewhere this ish). So, if you're dying to read it, you can choose between a slow death or a fast one. Decisions, decisions. Squarsh? —VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I could remember back when I saw this movie about this girl who would draw monsters and they would come to life and do what her drawing showed. Since then I love anything to do with horror. I would see many movies and watch many, many horror shows on TV. One day I went to my local newsstand and noticed a comic book that said VAULT OF HORROR. I picked it up and looked at it. It was worth every penny. I wanted to read it so bad, but when I got home I had to cut the grass. The book was on my mind during the 1½ hour period. It soon was dark which made a perfect environment. I had my soda pop and chips ready as I read. It was great.

I have been doing my own comic books. Although my drawing ability is not yet perfect, nor my tales either, when I'm down I read some CRYPTs and VAULTs.

John Hempstead, age 17
Struthers, OH

What a charming scene of domestic life, what a typical, Theodore Cleaver picture of chores, snacks & delayed pleasure. . .

How disgusting! This is 90s, kiddo; immediate gratification and hedonistic pleasure up to your ears! My kinda town! —VK

[Don't let VK discourage you, John. Sounds great to us!]

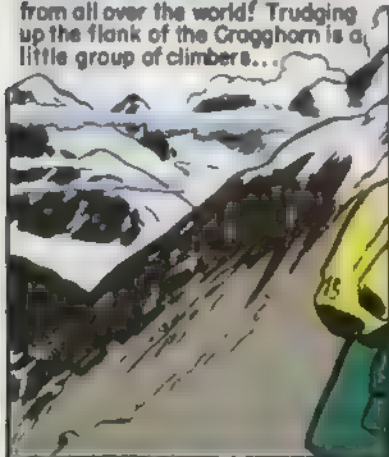
Dear Vault-Keeper,

What's up? I was reading your issue #2, and the stories are so wild. They keep you in suspense through the whole story. Some are switched around, you think someone did it, and the other person really did it. I like the way you do that. I love reading the comics at night. Keep it up.

Rich Arnes
Kankakee, IL

Hey, Rich, I consider it a vote of confidence that, altho you don't know what I've got up, you want me to keep it there! —VK

The tingling air and the gleaming snow-capped peaks of the Carpathian mountains attract vacationers from all over the world! Trudging up the flank of the Craghorn is a little group of climbers...



From a little village in the southern part of Transylvania... *Viktor Zorak...*



And from America, honeymooning in this romantic setting... *John and Edna Farnum...*



And the English brothers... students, enjoying their summer freedom from classes at Oxford... *Reggie and Eric Smythe...*



THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL FOLLOW THEIR GRIZZLED GUIDE, THE ROUMANIAN *JAN BODZLA*, INTO THE ADVENTURE AND EXCITEMENT THEY SEEK* THEY KNOW THEY FACE *DANGER*, BUT HOW CAN THEY KNOW OF THE *HORROR* THEY WILL MEET WHEN *TERROR STRIKES* IN THE FORM OF A...

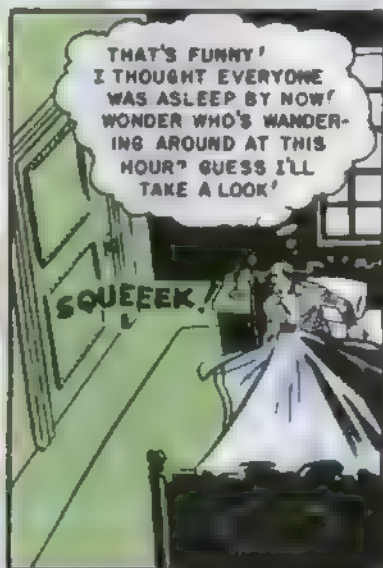
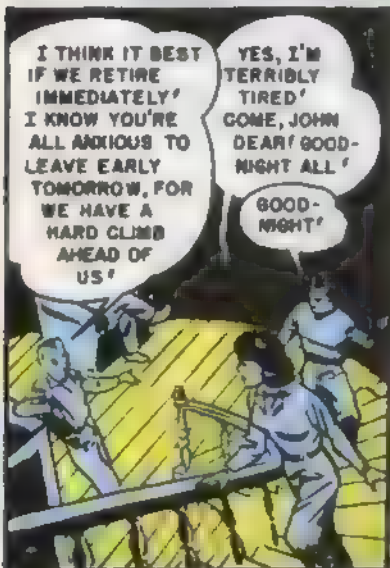
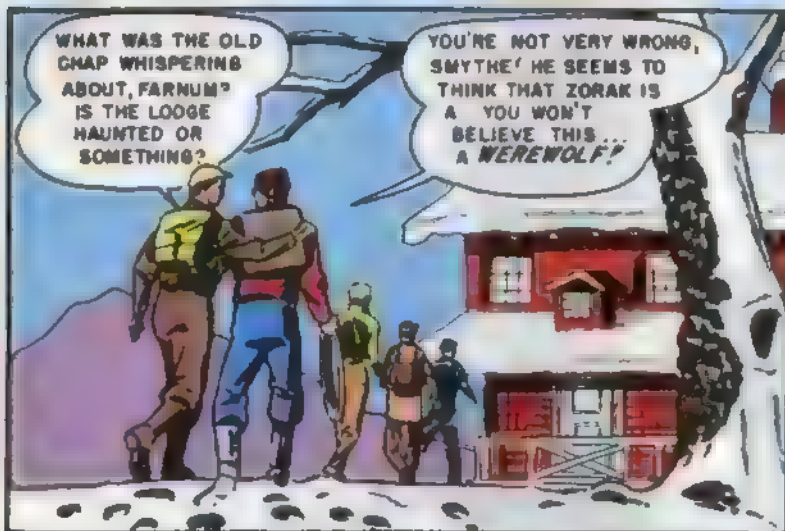
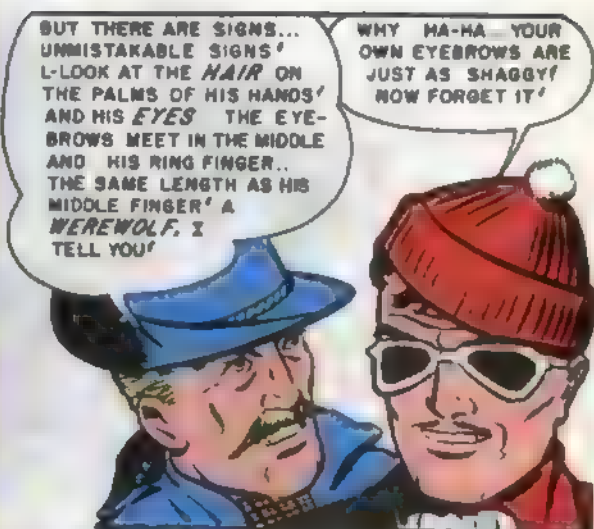


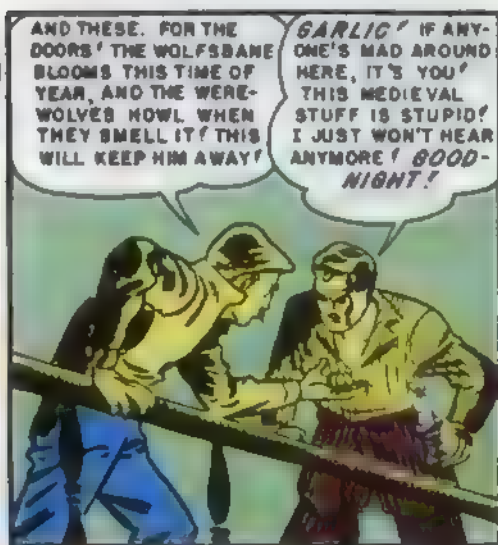
THERE IT IS! THE LOOSE WHERE WE WILL REST THIS NIGHT! TOMORROW WE SHALL CONTINUE THE CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE CRAGHORN!



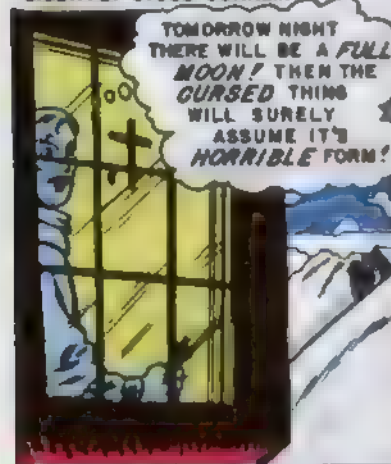
SH-H-H! NO ONE MUST HEAR ME, MR. FARNUM! I WANT WHAT YOU'RE SOMETHING... HORRIBLE!



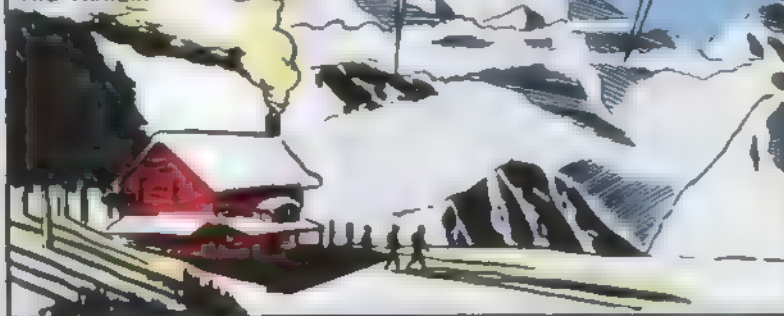




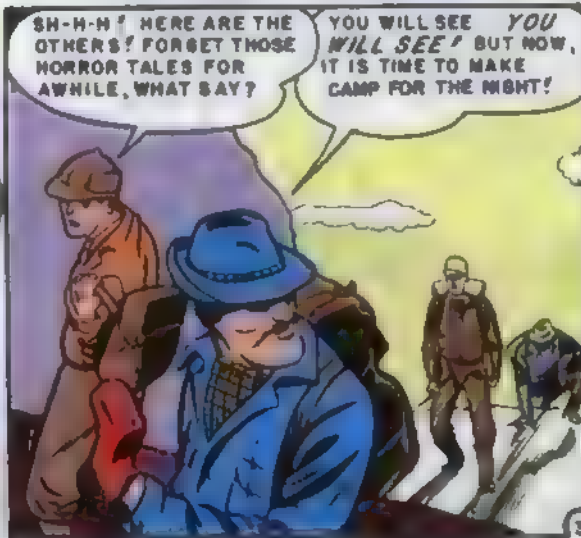
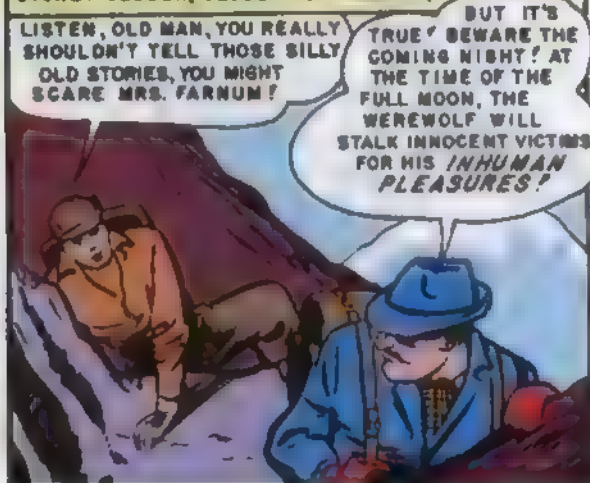
BUT JAN BODZLA WAS WARY...AND WHILE THE OTHERS SLEPT HE SILENTLY STOOD GUARD...



BUT PERHAPS IT WAS JAN'S ANCIENT RITUAL, PERHAPS THERE REALLY WAS NO WEREWOLF, BUT THE NIGHT PASSED QUIETLY INTO THE DAWN! REASSURING SUNLIGHT FINDS THE GROUP VERY ANXIOUS TO START ON THE TRAIL...



UP THE WEST SLOPE OF THE IMPOSING TOWER OF STONE! CLOSER, CLOSER TO...WHAT...?



THE MOON APPEARS IN THE DARKENING SKY AS THE CLIMBERS EAT THEIR SUPPER.. UNAWARE OF IMPENDING HORROR.

LOOK HOW HIS EYES SHINE!
THE MOON IS RISING AND HIS
EYES TURN RED! IT'S THE
FIRST SIGN. WE MUST WATCH
HIM CAREFULLY!

RED EYES!
YOU'RE A CARD!

YOU CERTAINLY
HAVE AN IMAGINATION!
WHY, IT'S JUST THE
REFLECTION OF THE
FLAMES!



HER HAND! HE LOOKS AT HER HAND
AND SEES THE SIGN OF THE
PENTAGRAM VISIBLE ONLY
TO HIM! **SHE** WILL BE HIS
FIRST VICTIM! WE MUST
SAVE HER!

OH, YOU'RE
REALLY FUNNY,
YOU KNOW!

BUT OLD JAN'S WARN-
INGS ARE IGNORED!
THE CLIMBERS RETIRE
TO THEIR TENTS AND
ALL IS QUIET. FOR
AWHILE! THEN,
SUDDENLY...



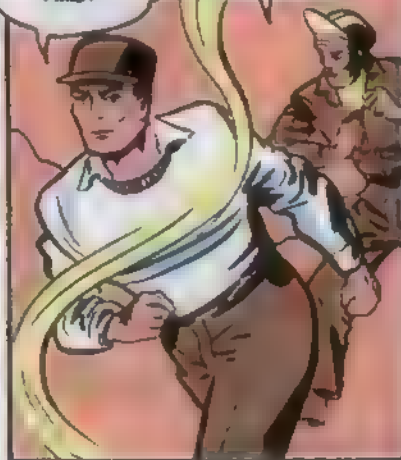
WHA A
SCREAM!

WHAT IS IT?
MRS. FARNUM.

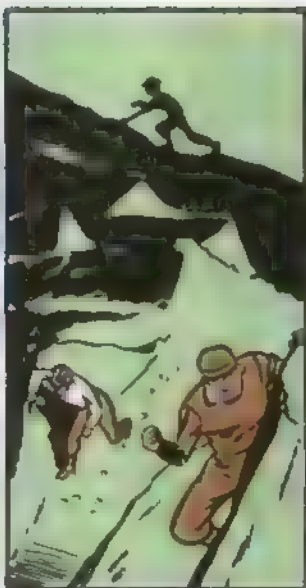
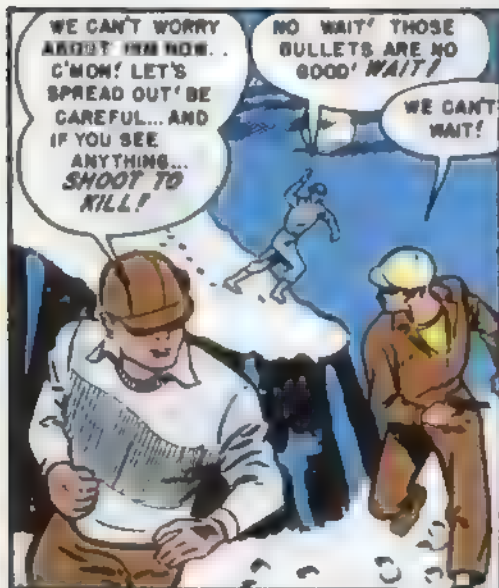
SHE'S GONE! THAT
SCREAM WE
MUST FIND HER!

LET'S GO.. WE
CAN'T WASTE
TIME!

WE'RE WITH
YOU, ERIC!



BUT EVERYBODY'S NOT
HERE! WHERE IS... **ZORAK**?
WHERE IS HE?



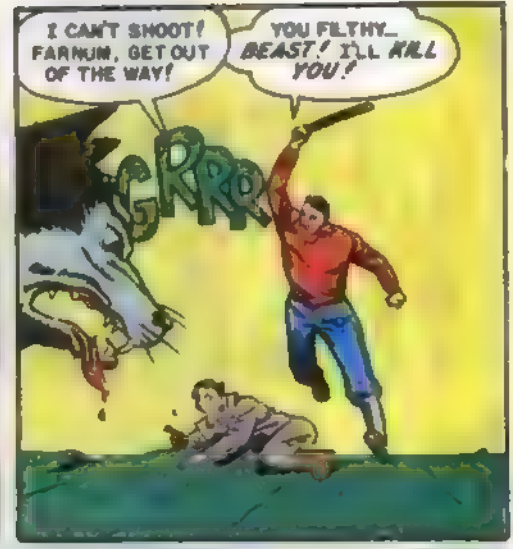
THE LOATHSOME BEAST LED THEM STEALTHILY ON, SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS HERE...DARTING INTO THE MOONLIGHT THERE! HE EVADED THE HUNTERS, AND LED THEM UP..UP.



THERE HE IS! AFTER HIM!

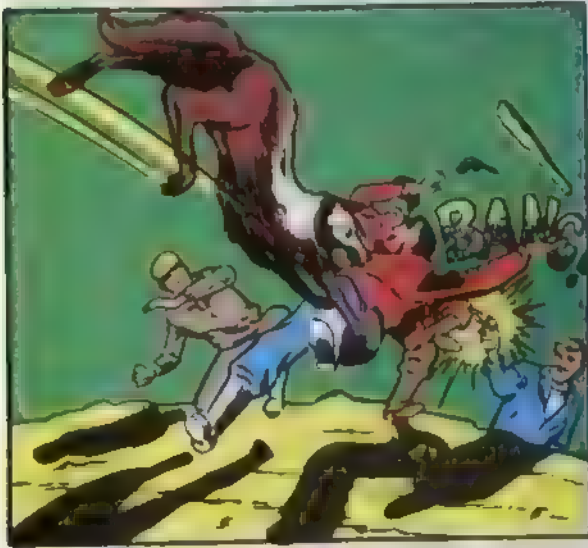
I SEE HIM! AT THE TOP!

LET ME AT HIM!



I CAN'T SHOOT! FARNUM, GET OUT OF THE WAY!

YOU FILTHY BEAST! I'LL KILL YOU!



YOU GOT HIM! NICE GONG, JAN!

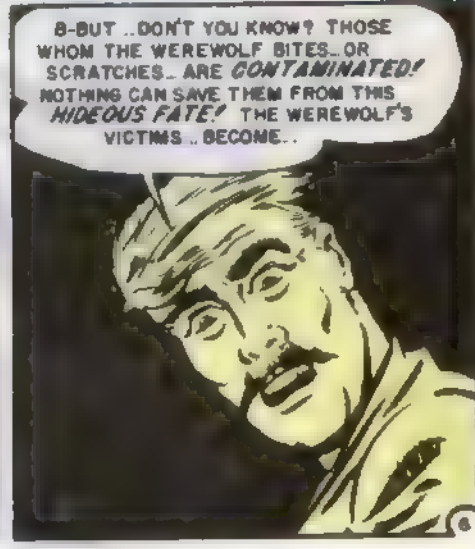
IS ANYONE HURT? FARNUM SMYTHE? YOU ALL RIGHT?



IT'S NOT SERIOUS, JAN, LUCKILY! JUST MY ARM. HE BIT ME!

I JUST GOT A SCRATCH! YOU GOT HIM JUST IN TIME!

MY LEG THOSE SHARP CLAWS! BUT IT'S NOT BAD!



B-BUT ..DON'T YOU KNOW? THOSE WHOM THE WEREWOLF BITES..OR SCRATCHES.. ARE CONTAMINATED! NOTHING CAN SAVE THEM FROM THIS HIDEOUS FATE! THE WEREWOLF'S VICTIMS ..BECOME..

WEREWOLVES!



THEY LAY IN THEIR COFFINS, THE QUIET DEAD OF OLD AND HAUGHTY CAPE COLONY. ON THEIR BONEY FINGERS THEY WORE THEIR RINGS, AND JEWELS SPARKLED AROUND THEIR WITHERED NECKS AND ARMS. SEEKING THIS FORGOTTEN LOOT CAME ABNER TUCKER... MERCILESS TO ANYTHING THAT STOOD IN HIS PATH... FORGETTING IN HIS GREED... THAT...

RATS HAVE SHARP TEETH!



ABNER TUCKER WAS THE LOCAL HISTORIAN OF BLUE-BLOODED CAPE COLONY. HE KNEW THE ANCESTRY OF EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN TOWN HE ALSO KNEW.. OTHER THINGS...

THE BOOK SAID... SHE WAS BURIED ..WHILE WEARING ALL HER WEDDING JEWELS!



SUDDENLY, SHRILLY IN THE NIGHT'S SILENCE, ABNER TUCKER SCREAMED



JUST...A RAT? THEY'VE MONEYCOMBED THIS PLACE WITH THEIR BURROWS AND NESTS? WHEWWW... SURE GAVE ME A START! I...I THOUGHT *SHE* WAS STIRRING IN THERE... SITTING UP?



AHH THERE SHE IS! THE LOVELY MISS LADY DEAN WITH ALL HER EMERALDS! HER EMERALDS? MY EMERALDS, NOW!



AND HERE THEY ARE...JUST AS THAT OLD HISTORY I FOUND SAID! *REAL* EMERALDS, ALL RIGHT! A FORTUNE IN JEWELS! ALL MINE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE THINGS THIS GRAVEYARD HOLDS!



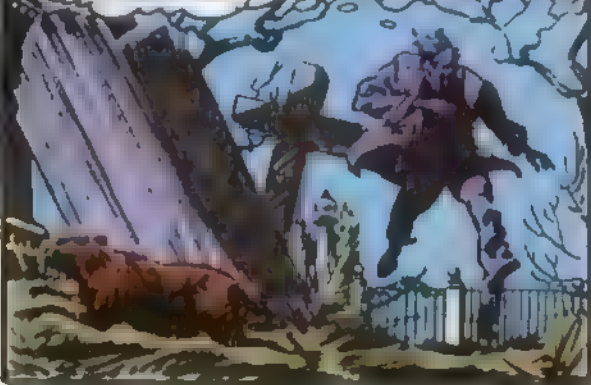
YES, THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! IN MY ROLE AS HISTORIAN I HAVE ACCESS TO OLD RECORDS... OLD BURIAL RECORDS AND DIARIES! THIS WHOLE GRAVEYARD...MUST HOLD HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF VALUABLES. SOMEDAY...I'LL BE *RICH*!



WHA...WHAT WAS *THAT*? I HEARD SOMETHING...SOUND A...A POLICEMAN!



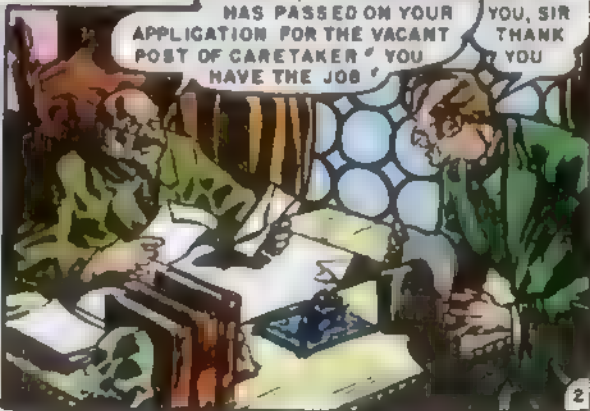
IF...IF ANYONE EVER *SAW* ME DIGGING UP THOSE GRAVES, I'D GO TO JAIL! AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY... THINK UP SOME WAY... TO DIG UP THOSE GRAVES WITHOUT...RISK OF DISCOVERY!



SOME AFTERNOONS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF THE COLONIAL GRAVEYARD...

ABNER, THE COMMITTEE HAS PASSED ON YOUR APPLICATION FOR THE VACANT POST OF CARETAKER! YOU HAVE THE JOB!

THANK YOU, SIR
THANK YOU

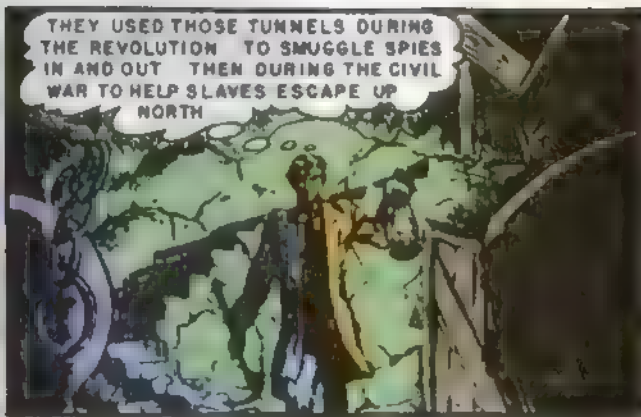


ABNER TUCKER MADE HIS HOME IN THE OLD MANSION WHICH WAS NOW A PART OF THE GRAVEYARD. AT NIGHT HE PORED OVER OLD PLANS AND BLUEPRINTS.

ACCORDING TO THIS OLD PRINT, THERE'S A SECRET ENTRANCE FROM THE CELLAR INTO THE TUNNELS BENEATH THE GRAVEYARD.



THEY USED THOSE TUNNELS DURING THE REVOLUTION TO SMUGGLE SPIES IN AND OUT. THEN DURING THE CIVIL WAR TO HELP SLAVES ESCAPE UP NORTH.



THIS MUST BE 86YYYAAAA!



THOSE RATS GAVE ME A SCARE. BLASTED THINGS. I'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF THEM... SOMEHOW!



DOWN, DOWN A WOODEN STAIRCASE ROTTED WITH AGE AND INTO THE EARTHEN TUNNELS WENT ABNER TUCKER. AND EVERYWHERE THAT HE WENT.

"RATS" HUNDREDS OF THEM. THOUSANDS! THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE.



THERE'S A GRAVE RIGHT ABOUT HERE. I'LL JUST GET IN A LITTLE WORK TONIGHT HAVE EVERYTHING READY FOR TOMORROW!



AND AS ABNER TUCKER WORKED AND SWEATED, CRUEL, LITTLE GLITTERING EYES WATCHED HIS EVERY MOVE. FOR ABNER TUCKER WAS AN ENEMY... TO THE RATS!



I OUGHT TO BE INSIDE THE COFFIN-CHAMBER FAIRLY SOON.

AT LAST! HERE IT IS! THE GRAVE OF RICH OLD MARCUS LEE! HE WAS BURIED WITH HIS **MONEYBELT** STILL ON HIM!



THERE! THERE'S THE BELT. STUFFED WITH GOOD GOLD COINS! HOW HEAVY IT FEELS! BUT THAT'S BECAUSE... GOLD IS HEAVY!



NICE YELLOW GOLD! ENOUGH HERE TO MAKE ME RICH! BUT THERE'S MORE TO COME! I'LL LEAVE THE BELT HERE TONIGHT. I MUST HAVE A SAFE HIDING PLACE FOR IT! UP ABOVE!

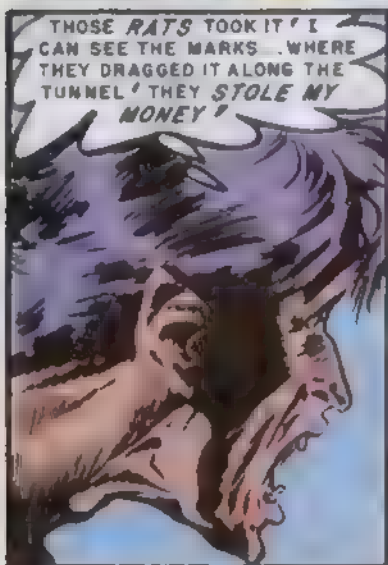


ALL THE NEXT DAY, ABNER TUCKER WENT ABOUT HIS TASKS WITH IMPATIENCE THAT NIGHT, AS HE WENT ALONG THE TUNNEL AND INTO THE R FLED GRAVE OF MARCUS LEE

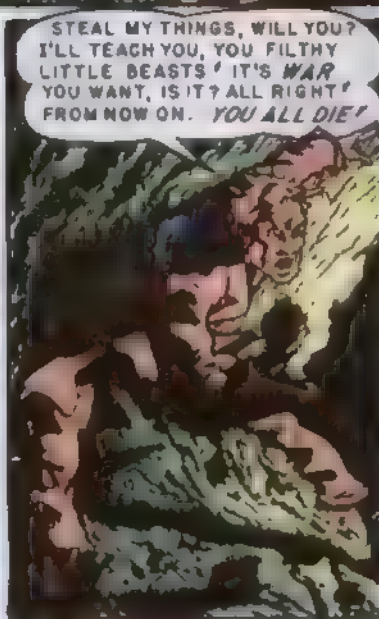


THE **MONEYBELT** GONE!

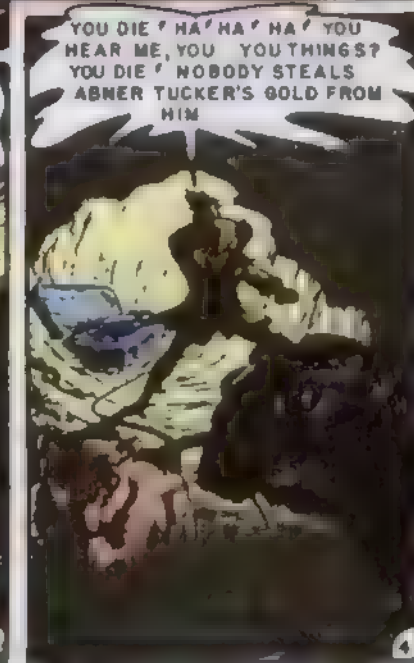
THOSE RATS TOOK IT! I CAN SEE THE MARKS... WHERE THEY DRAGGED IT ALONG THE TUNNEL! THEY **STOLE MY MONEY!**



STEAL MY THINGS, WILL YOU? I'LL TEACH YOU, YOU FILTHY LITTLE BEASTS! IT'S **WAR** YOU WANT, IS IT? ALL RIGHT! FROM NOW ON... **YOU ALL DIE!**



YOU DIE! HA! HA! HA! YOU HEAR ME, YOU YOUTHINGS? YOU DIE! NOBODY STEALS ABNER TUCKER'S GOLD FROM HIM



NEXT DAY, ABNER TUCKER WORKED LIKE A MAN POSSESSED. HE BUILT TRAPS.

THEY'LL LEARN WHAT A MAN CAN DO! THEY'LL LEARN BY DYING!



HE POISONED MEAT, AND CUT IT INTO TINY CHUNKS. AT NIGHT HE WALKED THE TUNNELS, DROPPING THE DEADLY FOOD.

HA' HA' HA' GOME AND GET IT YOUR DINNER! HA' HA' DEADLY DINNER



NOW TRY TO STEAL MY GOLD! TRY! TRY! YOU'RE PENNED IN THERE!

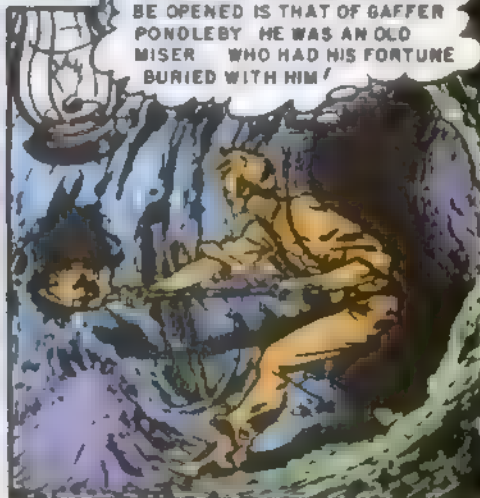


DAY AFTER DAY, RATS DIED BY THE HUNDREDS! NOW, WHEN HE WALKED THE TUNNELS, THERE WERE FEW OF THEM TO BE SEEN! BUT ABNER TUCKER WAS NOT SATISFIED.

THERE! THIS WIRE BARRIER WILL KEEP THEM DOWN AT THE FAR END OF THE TUNNEL. NOW I CAN DIG ALL I WANT. AND THEY CAN'T GET AT MY TREASURES!



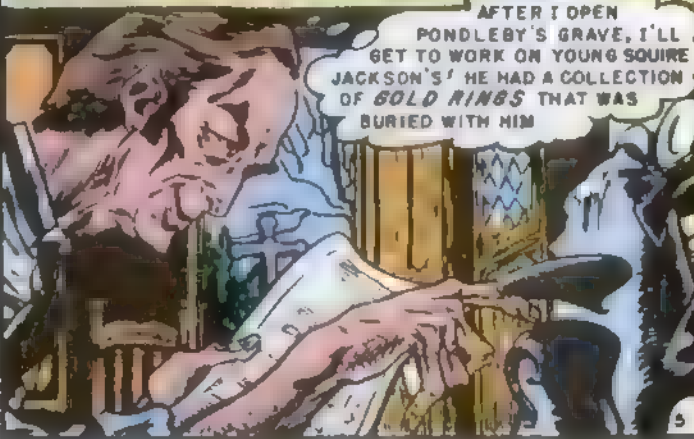
NOW I CAN REALLY CONCENTRATE ON MY JOB! THE NEXT GRAVE TO BE OPENED IS THAT OF GAFFER PONDLEBY. HE WAS AN OLD MISER WHO HAD HIS FORTUNE BURIED WITH HIM!



HIS GRAVE IS FURTHER THAN I THOUGHT! I'LL HAVE TO SHORE UP THIS TUNNEL WITH WOODEN BEAMS, TO KEEP IT FROM COLLAPSING!



BY DAY, ABNER TUCKER PORED OVER THE OLD GRAVEYARD PLANS AS HE ATE HIS LUNCH



AFTER I OPEN PONDLEBY'S GRAVE, I'LL GET TO WORK ON YOUNG SQUIRE JACKSON'S! HE HAD A COLLECTION OF GOLD RINGS THAT WAS BURIED WITH HIM

AS HE ATE, ABNER TUCKER WAS BLISSFULLY UNAWARE THAT HIS ENEMIES, THE RATS, WERE FURIOUSLY WORKING AWAY BELOW HIM

ONCE FREE, THE RODENTS RACED FOR THE TUNNEL ON WHICH ABNER TUCKER HAD SO FURIOUSLY LABORED THEIR QUICK WHITE TEETH GNAWED AT THE WOODEN BEAMS THAT SUPPORTED THE WALLS OF THE PONDLEBY TUNNEL.

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, ABNER TUCKER WORKED AWAY IN THE DIM LIGHT, HE NEVER NOTICED THE SLOW, STEADY WEAKENING OF THE BEAMS UNTIL ONE NIGHT A WEEK LATER

AT LAST! LOOK AT HIS GOLD! HIS MONEYBAGS! HIS JEWELS! THERE MUST BE CLOSE TO FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN HERE!

SO EXCITED WAS HE THAT HE DID NOT HEAR THE SHARP CLICKING OF GNAWING TEETH

A BEAM WEAKENED BY THE GNAWING AND THE WEIGHT OF UNTOLD TONS OF DIRT. CRACKED! ANOTHER CRACKED!

WHAT'S THAT? WHAT IS IT? OHKHH! THE TUNNEL IS CAVING IN!

THE RATS! THEY'VE GNAWED AWAY THE TUNNEL SUPPORTS! MY SHOVEL IS UPSTAIRS!

NO NO NO! I'LL BE BURIED ALIVE! DOWN HERE. I CAN'T DIG OUT WITH MY BARE HANDS. NO NO THE AIR WON'T LAST LONG! I'LL BE SUFFOCATED. BURIED!

TWENTY FEET ABOVE, THE GRAVEYARD WAS QUIET. ONLY THE DEAD AND THE RATS WERE THERE TO ENJOY THE MOONLIGHT

Dear V-K,

I like the idea of having hosts for EC comics. In order I like the Crypt-Keeper because he's very funny. Next is the Old Witch who always seems to be stirring up something new in HAUNT. Third, I like YOU because you're such a nice guy.

Scott Kirkpatrick
Cincinnati, OH

I must be slipping.

—VK

Dear CK, VK, OW,

Recently I read one of your horror comics. I enjoyed it very much. My family went on a trip to Muskegon; we stopped at a gas station, and I bought three of your comics. My whole family likes your comics. I've told my friends about your comics and they are starting to collect them. I've been so delighted with your comics that I thought I'd write.

Tina Montie
Alpena, MI

'Fess up, you're...the Addams family! —VK

Dear Russ,

In the past I have purchased six of your EC Libraries. But the one-time outlays of cash for these tremendous hardback books has prevented me from doing so recently. I never bought any of the combination reprint issues. I wanted them in order and not mixed together. You must have read my mind.

Your new format is perfect for me. I like the chronological printing, the paper format and lower price, and I like the quarterly frequency.

I would also like to purchase the Pre-Trend ECs. None of these have ever been reprinted in any format that I know of. I also would be purchasing the post-code issues if you reprint them in this format. Thanks for a super product.

Matt Sturm
Cincinnati, OH

Russ says to say if you DO decide you want hardbacks (ouch, ouch), he's published the entire New Direction (post-code, OUCH) line, and for a short time only you can order the 3-set Pre-Trend books (WAR AGAINST CRIME; CRIME PATROL; SADDLE JUSTICE; GUNFIGHTER; SADDLE ROMANCES; A MOON, A GIRL...ROMANCE and MODERN LOVE) at a special prepublication price; write or call for details (EE-Yow!! Now, leggo the arm, Russ, you'll break it. Again.) —VK

Dear GhouLunatics,

I just wanted to let you know that all the #1 issues of the 32-page ECs arrived in perfect condition. Your packing & shipping department did a careful job, and obviously cares about the condition the comics arrive in.

Although the #1s were ordered as back issues, I did finally order a premium subscription by phone. I don't have a car, so the cost of a subscription is probably equal to or less than round trip bus fare to a comic shop 12 times a year, especially now that recent route changes mean that it now takes 2 buses to get to the nearest comic shop. Also, the shop relegates what few ECs they have to the rotating rack. You have heard this before, but my comic shop copy of TWO-FISTED looks like somebody drove a nail through it! All the comic shop people told me how mutilated the comics would be if I subscribed, while theirs would be in perfect condition. It looks like it's the other way around! I now know that if they come from you via a premium subscription, they'll be in perfect condition. I chose the \$75 Option #3. As long as they come in a box is all that matters to me. I always thought Calumet was a brand of baking powder.

I couldn't help but notice similarities between "Portrait in Wax!" in VAULT #1 and the 1950s Vincent Price movie "House of Wax." Not the plot, but specific details, like corpses disguised as wax statues and a man who covered his scarred face with a wax mask. I wonder if it was just coincidence, or if the writers of the film "borrowed" these ideas from VK.

I'll consider ordering some of the color prints of EC covers. I'm assuming they're the color plates from the hardcover EC Library. I haven't decided yet, because it would take some of the surprise out of getting the comics if I saw all the covers at once.

That's about all I have to say. Your main requests in the letter pages are "Subscribe!" and "We Want Letters!", and now I've done both.

Bobby Birkert

CK mentioned the vide-worthy Vincent in his local in CRYPT #3, now's my turn! Before we crow too loudly about beating Hollywood to the punch, bear in mind "House of Wax" was a remake of 1933's "Mystery of the Wax Museum," directed by Michael Curtiz. But, to compare, here's the peerless Price as "House"'s Henry Jarrod being unmasked alongside Craig's Jules Vendette in the same circumstance, from "Portrait in Wax!" in VAULT #1.



While we're on the subject, I've been catching up on movies released since my forced retirement, and can recommend the

work of Curtis Harrington, specifically in this connection his "Games" of 1967 starring the "Diabolique"—a Simone Signoret (Woo-woo!).

For the 3rd part of a Price triple-play, see OW's local in HAUNT #3 in about 30 days!

You are right, the EC covers are "overruns" from the ubiquitous EC Library. And, they're so cheap! I mean, they're so reasonably priced! Suitable for wallpapering your own little vault! Call or write for info. —VK

Dear V-K,

I don't see why people compare your stories to the Crypt-Keeper's stories. They are all by the exact same artists and writers.

I have a question: If VAULT #1 actually printed the FIRST issue of VAULT, why does the Vault-Keeper say, "Ah, we meet AGAIN"? Also, when did Ghastly join EC?

Oliver Buckel
Erie, PA

Why, Oliver, the tale is in the TELLING! And I'M the top tale-teller!

Truth be told, I told two tales (by the tale-teller! By golly, I'm getting tongue-tied!) in the last few Pre-Trend comics; specifically, in WAR AGAINST CRIME #10 & #11. You can see those soon in Russ' Pre-Trend hardbacks (see above).

"Ghastly" Graham Ingels' 1st EC work was likely "Smokin' Six Guns" in WAR AGAINST CRIME #1 (1948). He did about 20 stories for the Pre-Trends. Of course, he was just plain Graham then. It wasn't till we Ghoulnatics got 'hold of him he turned "Ghastly!" —VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

Why don't you go to HBO and get your own show like the Crypt-Keeper? You might be good enough! You aren't my favorite host, but I have no favorite! I write to all hosts so don't worry. Are you friends with the Crypt-Keeper? I've always wondered about that.

Ricky Metza
Chicago, IL

MIGHT be? Huh!

—VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I subscribed to CRYPT a few months ago and VAULT just recently. I think your mag is the best. I am going to subscribe to HAUNT, too, but I think I'll still like VAULT the best.

I read your mag all the time. I love the artwork, especially by Graham Ingels. I am his biggest fan. Speaking of fan, I would like to know if there are any fan clubs going to start. In VAULT #2 I read Glenn Weinrich's letter in VK's Corner asking

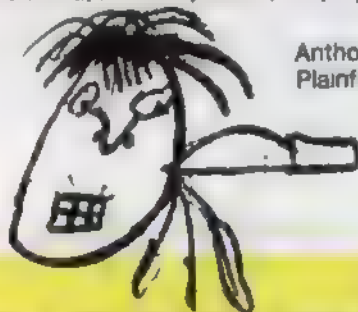
about a Fan-Addict Club. You asked someone to step forward. I would like to know if Glenn would like to help me start one. If you would, Glenn, write to me.

Kevin Spann
5415 Cardinal
Little Rock, AR 72204

See also the local in CRYPT #3, already in release. —VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I love your gruesome tales. I've read only one issue of VAULT, I know I'll buy more. It's the best comic I've ever read. Although I'm not the best artist in the world, I drew a picture. I hope you will like it.



Anthony Bell
Plainfield, IN

I like it! I like it! From sharp minds come...sharp knives! —VK

Dear Vault-Keeper,

I want to know who wrote EC's stories in CRYPT, VAULT, and HAUNT. Was it the artists? At first, when I started collecting, I thought it was. Now, I am not sure.

I am your #1 fan.

Dan Kraut
Philadelphia, PA

At last! My own little #1 fan!

The fact is, we're not set up to accurately list the authors of the EC stories, but we can easily (using the von Bernwitz "Checklist") list the artists. —VK

Also available this month are WEIRD FANTASY and TWO-FISTED TALES. Watch for HAUNT, WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY and CRIME next month. Don't forget CRYPT, WEIRD SCIENCE and SHOCK. Get them at your local comic book shop or SUBSCRIBE (see our ad in this comic for details)! Back issues are \$1.50 each plus \$2.00 per order for s&h (\$3.00 outside US).

We want letters! Write to:
VAULT
RUSS COCHRAN
POB 469
WEET PLAINS MO 64775

THIS COMIC REPRINTS
VAULT OF HORROR "614" (#3, AUG 1960)

"Voodoo Vengeance!"
"Werewolf!"
"Rats Have Sharp Teeth!"
"The Strange Couple!"

Johnny Craig
Wally Wood
Graham Ingels
Al Feldstein



THIS TALE IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES! I CALL IT...

THE STRANGE COUPLE!

YOU HAVE BEEN DRIVING FOR TWO HOURS THROUGH THIS BLINDING DOWNPOUR! AT TIMES, YOU CAN HARDLY SEE THE ROAD AHEAD! HEADLIGHTS DON'T HELP! THEY ONLY REFLECT BACK FROM THE SHEETS OF DRIVING RAIN...GIVING THE EERIE EFFECT THAT YOU ARE FOLLOWING A SOLID WALL OF WATER! WAIT...THERE'S A LIGHT UP AHEAD! IT'S MOVING UP AND DOWN! IT...IT'S A MAN STANDING IN THE ROAD...A STATE TROOPER...SIGNALING YOU TO STOP...

YOU'LL HAVE TO TURN BACK, MISTER!
THE BRIDGE'S WASHED OUT UP AHEAD!

BUT...I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH!
ISN'T THERE AN OTHER WAY?

SCRIPT & ART BY
FELDSTEIN

YOU CAN TAKE THIS SIDE ROAD! IT
CROSSES THE RIVER 'BOUT TWO
MILES BELOW! BAD ROAD, THOUGH...

THANKS,
OFFICER...
I'LL
CHANGE IT!

YOU BACK THE CAR UP, AND SWING INTO THE SIDE
ROAD! THE CAR BUMPS AND ROCKS AS YOU GUIDE
IT THROUGH THE BLACKNESS! THE OFFICER WAS
RIGHT! THIS IS A BAD ROAD...FULL OF HOLES, NOW
FILLED WITH WATER...

...HOPE NONE OF THESE RUTS ARE DEEP! IF THE
ENGINE GOT WET, I'D BE STUCK GOOD!

ROAD

YOU CONTINUE ON, SPLASHING AND ROLLING, FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE HOURS! YOU'RE TIRED NOW! THE STRAIN OF DRIVING IN THIS DREADFUL DOWNPOUR IS BEGINNING TO HAVE ITS EFFECT! SUDDENLY



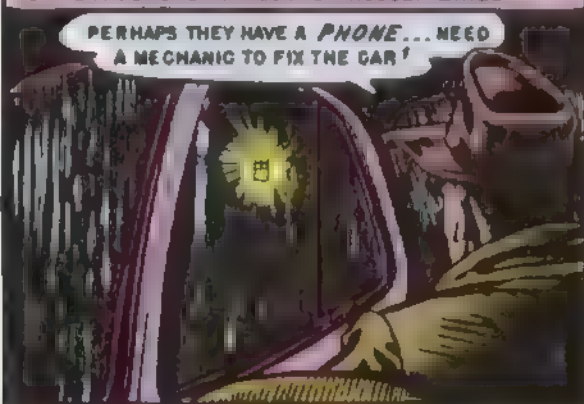
THE ENGINE HAS STALLED! THAT LAST DITCH YOU WENT THROUGH PROBABLY WET THE WIRES! YOU'RE STUCK NOW! STUCK OUT IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN SPOT!



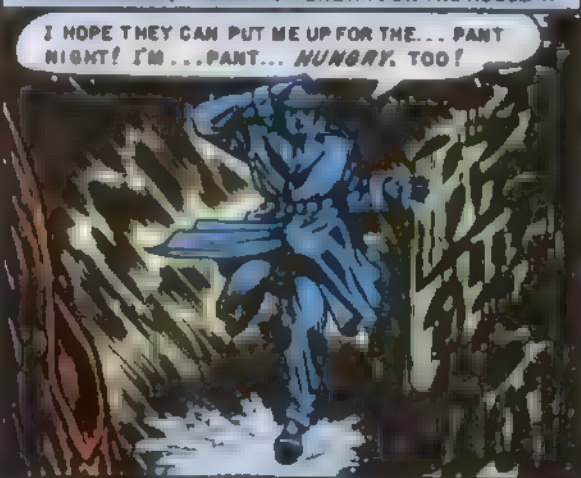
MIGHT AS WELL MAKE MYSELF COMFORTABLE! GOT TO WAIT FOR THIS BEASTLY STORM TO STOP. TIRED ANYWAY.. NO-HUM.. I'LL



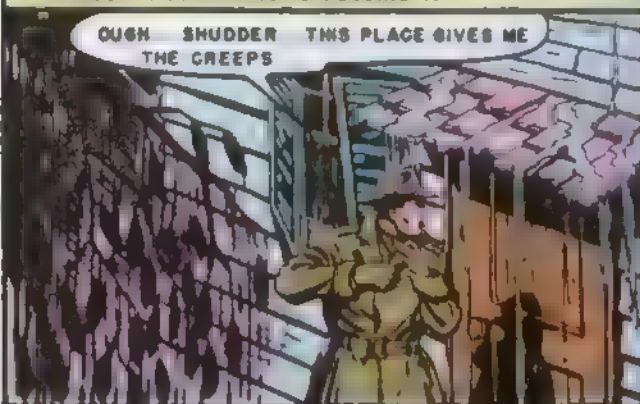
SUDDENLY YOU SIT BOLT UPRIGHT! A LIGHT, SHINING THROUGH THE BLACK DOWNPOUR! FUNNY! YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT BEFORE! MAYBE IT'S A HOUSE! MAYBE



YOU PULL YOUR COLLAR UP AROUND YOUR NECK. PULL YOUR HAT DOWN, AND MAKE A BREAK FOR THE HOUSE..



THE HOUSE IS OLD AND RUNDOWN! THE SHUTTERS ARE BROKEN, AND ARE CLATTERING AGAINST THE WINDOWS! ICY FINGERS GRIP YOUR SPINE AS YOU STAND BEFORE THE BATTERED DOOR! THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS HOUSE... SOMETHING FOREBODING...



YOU KNOCK! THE HOLLOW BOOM ECHOES THROUGH THE INTERIOR.. AND HEAVY SLOW FOOTSTEPS APPROACH THE DOOR! THE RUSTY HINGES SQUEAK AND STRAIN AS THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN...



YOU'RE FRIGHTENED! THE WOMAN HAS A WILD, ALMOST MANIACAL LOOK IN HER GLEAMING EYES! HER HOARSE WHISPER BURNS YOUR EARDRUMS...

YOU'RE NOT WANTED! IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU HERE! GO AWAY!

BUT MY CAR... IT'S STUCK DOWN THERE... I THOUGHT.



LET THE GENTLEMAN COME IN, HESIBAH! LET HIM COME IN! I WOULDN'T TURN AWAY A DOG ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!

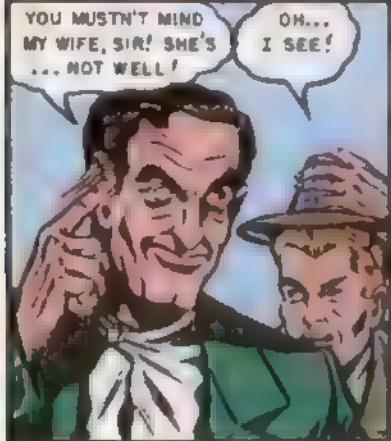
WHY... THANK YOU, SIR! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD PUT ME UP...

GO, WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME...



YOU MUSTN'T MIND MY WIFE, SIR! SHE'S ... NOT WELL!

OH... I SEE!



THAT'S WHY WE LIVE OUT IN THIS DESERTED PLACE! I CAN KEEP MY EYE ON HER... TAKE CARE OF HER!

I... UNDERSTAND! DO YOU THINK I COULD ... GET SOMETHING TO EAT?



OF COURSE! WAIT HERE! I'LL GO DOWN INTO THE WINE CELLAR... AND BRING UP A BOTTLE OF MY *BEST* VINTAGE!



YOU SIT DOWN! YOU LOOK AROUND! THE WOMAN IS COWERING IN THE CORNER! HER BEADY EYES FOLLOW THE MAN AS HE DISAPPEARS INTO THE CELLAR! THEN SHE RUSHES TO YOU... CLAWING AT YOUR ARM.

PLEASE! I DES OF YOU! GO! YOU ARE IN GREAT DANGER HERE! MY HUSBAND! HE IS *INHUMAN*!

INHUMAN?



MY HUSBAND... IS A *VAMPIRE*! THAT IS WHY YOU *MUST* LEAVE! TRUST ME! THAT BOTTLE HE'S GETTING... IT'S ALMOST *EMPTY*! IT'S *NOT* WINE! IT'S *BLOOD*!

GOOD LORD! THE WOMAN IS MAD!



THE FOOTSTEPS ON THE CELLAR STAIRS WARN THE OLD WOMAN OF HER HUSBAND'S RETURN AND SHE SLIPS INTO THE SHADOWS BEYOND THE FIREPLACE

AM HERE WE ARE!



THE MAN PUTS THE BOTTLE ON THE TABLE AND YOU STARE AT IT! IT IS ALMOST EMPTY, AND THE CONTENTS ARE A DEEP RED... BLOOD RED.

YOU'LL JOIN ME, SIR?

I'D RATHER NOT!



HE JUMPS UP IN A FIT OF RAGE! HE RUSHES TO THE WOMAN WHO SITS Huddled IN THE DARKNESS...

YES, FEDOR!

YOU'VE BEEN TALKING! GO UPSTAIRS TO YOUR ROOM! GO AHEAD!



YOU CAN SEE THAT HE'S IRRITATED! HE RETURNS TO THE TABLE AND POURS A GLASS OF THE RED LIQUID FOR HIMSELF! HE DRINKS IT DOWN AND LICKS HIS LIPS! THEN HE LEANS TOWARD YOU...

I SEE THAT I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT MY WIFE! SHE IS *INSANE*! HOPELESSLY INSANE! BUT HER AFFLICTION IS WORSE THAN ANY FIEND COULD IMAGINE! MY WIFE IS A *SHOUL*!



ICY FINGERS AGAIN CLOSE AROUND YOUR HEART AS THE MAN RELATES A STRANGE TALE!

WE HAD A DOG! ONE DAY, IT DIED! I TOOK THE POOR THING AND BURIED IT IN THE GARDEN BEHIND THE HOUSE! THAT NIGHT, I WAS AWAKENED BY THE SOUND OF A SPADE IN THE SOFT EARTH! I LOOKED OUT OF MY WINDOW



...IT WAS *MY WIFE*! SHE WAS DIGGING AT THE DOG'S GRAVE! I PUT ON MY ROBE! I WENT DOWNSTAIRS! SHE WAS GONE WHEN I GOT TO THE GARDEN, BUT THE DOG'S CORPSE WAS STILL THERE...AND IT WAS *PARTIALLY DEVoured*!



YOU SHUDDER! A FEELING OF NAUSEA SWEEPS OVER YOU! YOUR THROAT IS TIGHT AND DRY! THE MAN RISES... TAKES THE BOTTLE AND GOES DOWN INTO THE CELLAR ONCE MORE! SUDDENLY YOU HEAR FOOTSTEPS BEHIND YOU! YOU TURN...

HE KILLED THE DOG! HE DRAINED ITS BLOOD! LOCK THE DOOR TO YOUR ROOM TONIGHT! I BEG YOU! LOCK THE DOOR! PROTECT YOURSELF I WARN YOU!

I I WILL!



SHE SCURRIES UP THE STAIRS AS THE MAN RETURNS!
HE HANDS YOU A KEY!

THIS IS A KEY TO THE
CLOSET IN YOUR ROOM! LOCK IT TONIGHT!
SHE CAN GET IN THAT WAY IF YOU DON'T
COME. I WILL SHOW YOU YOUR ROOM!

YES!
I
I'M
COMING!



HE OPENS THE DOOR TO A SMALL ROOM! THERE IS NO
WINDOW... ONLY ONE OTHER DOOR! THE CLOSET!

GOOD NIGHT, SIR!
REMEMBER WHAT I
TOLD YOU. LOCK
THE CLOSET WITH
THAT KEY!

YES I WILL! I'LL
REMEMBER!



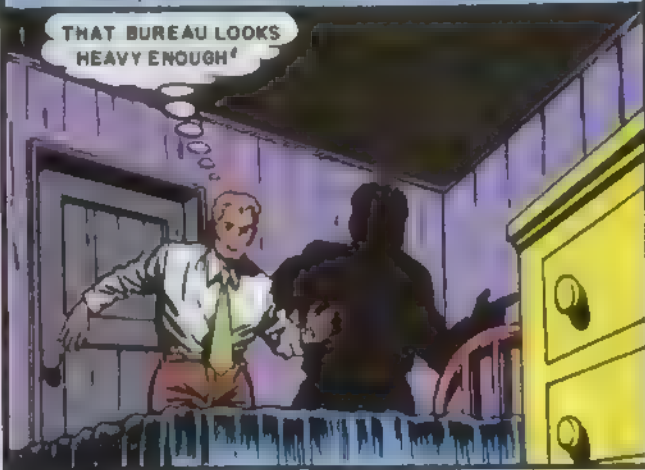
HE IS GONE... AND YOU ARE TERRIFIED! LORD, HOW
YOU WISH YOU COULD RUN FROM THIS CURSED
HOUSE. BUT THE RAIN. YOU CAN HEAR IT PAT-
TERING ON THE ROOF ABOVE. WHERE CAN YOU
GO?

I'LL BARRICADE
MYSELF IN!



FIRST YOU LOCK THE CLOSET WITH THE KEY THE MAN GAVE
YOU! THEN, YOU LOCK THE DOOR TO THE ROOM

THAT BUREAU LOOKS
HEAVY ENOUGH!



YOU PUSH THE HEAVY BUREAU UP
AGAINST THE DOOR TO THE ROOM

THAT OUGHT TO DO IT!
HE CAN'T MOVE THAT!



AND SHOVE THE BED UP AGAINST
THE CLOSET DOOR. IF I LIE ON

THE BED, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO
PUSH IT OPEN!



NERVOUSLY, YOU LIE DOWN ON THE
BED! YOU ARE TIRED, BUT YOU
DARE NOT SLEEP! WHOM CAN
YOU BELIEVE? WHICH ONE IS TEL-
LING THE TRUTH? MAYBE... MAYBE

THIS IS ALL A HORRIBLE JOKE
THEY ARE PLAYING



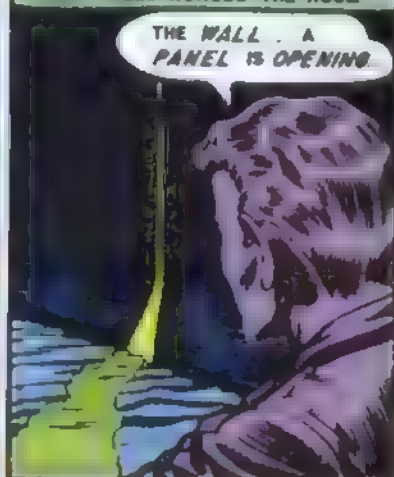
SUDDENLY YOUR BLOOD FREEZES IN YOUR VEINS! YOU SIT UP! A NOISE. FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE YOUR ROOM!



YOU TRY TO PEER INTO THE CLOSET! THE NOISE... AGAIN...



THEN A THIN PENCIL STRIPE OF LIGHT FALLS ACROSS THE ROOM



SHEER HORROR CLUTCHES AT YOUR POUNDING HEART THE PANEL OPENS WIDER WIDER AND THEN



YOU BACK UP BUT THERE'S NO PLACE TO GO! THE ROOM IS SMALL... THE DOORS BARRICADED AND THE TWO OF THEM, THAT HORRIBLE COUPLE, ARE COMING AT YOU



YOU SCREAM LOUDLY WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU CAN MUSTER! YOU CLAW AGAINST THE WALL BEHIND YOU AND SCREAM



SUDDENLY THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT AND YOU OPEN YOUR EYES...



YOU ARE IN YOUR CAR... THE RAIN POUNDING ON THE METAL TOP... ECHOING IN YOUR BRAIN! YOU'RE WET WITH PERSPIRATION... AND SICK...



YOU PRESS YOUR FOOT ON THE STARTER OF YOUR CAR! THERE IS NO SOUND!



YOU LOOK AROUND! A LIGHT... SHINING THROUGH THE DOWNPOUR! A HOUSE...



YOU PULL YOUR COLLAR UP AROUND YOUR NECK, PULL YOUR HAT DOWN OVER YOUR EYES, AND BREAK FOR THE HOUSE...

IF THEY HAVE NO PHONE, AT LEAST THEY COULD PUT ME UP UNTIL MORNING!



THE HOUSE SEEMS STRANGELY FAMILIAR! RUN DOWN... CLATTERING SHUTTERS, BATTERED DOOR! ALMOST LIKE THE HOUSE IN THAT HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE YOU JUST HAD...



FOOTSTEPS, SLOW AND HEAVY, APPROACH IN ANSWER TO YOUR FRANTIC HAMMERING! THE DOOR SQUEAKS OPEN...



ONLY A DREAM? WELL! THEN WHAT ARE YOU FRIGHTENED OF? GO ON! GO ON IN!



YOU, TOO, CAN PEP UP YOUR HUMDRUM
EXISTENCE WITH SOME **HORROR-IFIC, TERROR-IFIC,**
FEAR-SOME FICTION! ALSO, **SUSPENSE-FUL SURPRISE**
ENDINGS AND **SCIENCE-FICTION!!** CALM DOWN AND...



SUBSCRIBE!

WHAT? CUT UP A COMIC BOOK? SHAME!

CARTON-FRESH COPIES HAND STUFFED IN
A STURDY MANILA ENVELOPE AND MAILED
DIRECT TO YOUR HOUSE!

RUSS COCHRAN, PUBLISHER
PO BOX 469
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
417-256-2224
or call 1-800-EC CRYPT



ALL SUBS START WITH "NEXT" ISSUE
YES, START MY 4-ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE
FOLLOWING **NEW EC COMICS:**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CRYPT | <input type="checkbox"/> WEIRD SCIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> CRIME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VAULT | <input type="checkbox"/> WEIRD FANTASY | <input type="checkbox"/> SHOCK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAUNT | <input type="checkbox"/> WEIRD Sci-Fan | <input type="checkbox"/> TWO-FISTED |

NAME & ADDRESS:

REMIT \$6 EACH (\$9 OUTSIDE US)

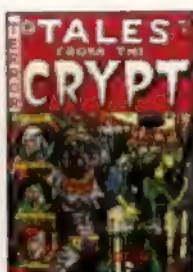
MISSOURI RESIDENTS MUST ADD 6.225% SALES TAX

PHOTOCOPY OR YOUR OWN PAPER OKAY!

YET MORE EC COMICS!!

FOR APPROXIMATELY A YEAR, GLADSTONE PUBLISHED A LINE OF EC REPRINT COMICS CONSISTING OF THE TITLES SHOWN BELOW. EACH ISSUE CONTAINED 64 PAGES IN FULL COMIC BOOK COLOR, THE FIRST 32 FROM THE 'KEY' TITLE AND THE LAST 32 FROM A SECOND TITLE. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE OCCASIONAL ARTICLES ABOUT THE MACABRE IN LITERATURE, A THEN-CURRENT LETTER COLUMN AND OTHER READER-WRITTEN FEATURES.

RUSS COCHRAN NOW HAS THE ENTIRE BACKSTOCK OF GLADSTONE'S EC REPRINT LINE! **EVERY ISSUE** IS IN STOCK AND AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT. COMPLETE YOUR EC COLLECTION BY PURCHASING THESE COMICS!



GLAD CRYPT #1



GLAD CRYPT #2



GLAD CRYPT #3



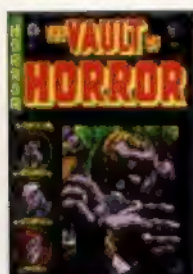
GLAD CRYPT #4



GLAD CRYPT #5



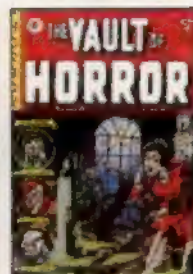
GLAD CRYPT #6



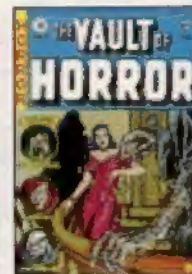
GLAD VAULT #1



GLAD VAULT #2



GLAD VAULT #3



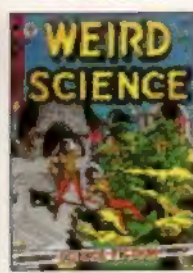
GLAD VAULT #4



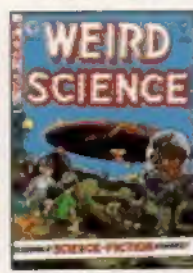
GLAD VAULT #5



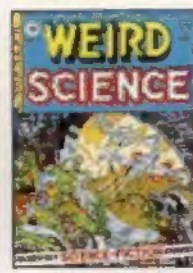
GLAD VAULT #6



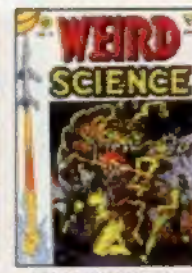
GLAD WEIRD #1



GLAD WEIRD #2



GLAD WEIRD #3



GLAD WEIRD #4



GLAD HAUNT #1



GLAD HAUNT #2

CONTENTS OF GLADSTONE EC COMICS

GLAD CRYPT

#1: CRYPT 33 (1952)
CRIME 17 (1953)

#2: CRYPT 35 (1953)
CRIME 18 (1951)

#3: CRYPT 38 (1953)
CRIME 1 (1950)

#4: CRYPT 18 (1950)
CRIME 16 (1953)

#5: CRYPT 45 (1954)
CRIME 5 (1951)

#6: CRYPT 42 (1954)
CRIME 27 (1955)

GLAD VAULT

#1: VAULT 34 (1953)
HAUNT 1 (1950)

#2: VAULT 27 (1952)
HAUNT 18 (1953)

#3: HAUNT 22 (1953)
VAULT 13 (1950)

#4: VAULT 23 (1952)
HAUNT 13 (1952)

#5: VAULT 19 (1951)
W FAN 8 (1951)

#6: VAULT 32 (1953)
W FAN 6 (1951)

GLAD WEIRD SCIENCE

#1: W SCI 22 (1953)
W FAN 1 (1950)

#2: W SCI 16 (1953)
W FAN 17 (1950)

#3: W SCI 9 (1951)
W FAN 14 (1950)

#4: W S-F 27 (1955)
W FAN 11 (1952)

GLAD HAUNT

#1: HAUNT 17 (1952)
W S-F 28 (1955)

#2: HAUNT 5 (1950)
W S-F 29 (1955)

WHEN ORDERING, PLEASE IDENTIFY AS **GLAD TITLE ISSUE #**; FOR EXAMPLE "GLAD CRYPT #1." GLAD CRYPT #1 IS \$5.; GLAD CRYPT #4, GLAD WEIRD #1 AND #4 ARE \$4. EACH; ALL OTHER ISSUES ARE \$3. EACH. INCLUDE \$2 PER ORDER FOR S&H (\$3 OUTSIDE US).



Send orders to:

Russ Cochran, Publisher

417-256-2224

P.O. Box 469

West Plains, MO 65775

Missouri residents must add 6.225% sales tax

OR to order call 1-800-EC CRYPT and ask for the order desk. **USE THIS NUMBER FOR ORDERS ONLY!**

THE COMPLETE EC LIBRARY



BE SURE TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL
PREPUBLICATION PRICE OF
\$200 FOR...**PRE-TREND!** ALL
ISSUES OF **WAR AGAINST
CRIME; CRIME PATROL;
SADDLE JUSTICE;
GUNFIGHTER; SADDLE
ROMANCES; A MOON, A
GIRL...ROMANCE AND
MODERN LOVE**, IN 3 BOXED
SETS! **COMING SOON!**

(EC Library volumes are available individually at \$20 each; except **PIRACY** and **W S-F Vol One**, which are \$25 each.) All prices ppd in US, add \$20 per set (\$5 per volume) outside US.

WEIRD SCIENCE, 4 vols, \$90.
WEIRD FANTASY, 4 vols, \$90.
WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY,
2 vols, \$55.
CRYPT, 5 vols, \$110.
VAULT, 5 vols, \$110.
CRIME, 5 vols, \$110.
SHOCK, 3 vols, \$70.
PANIC, 2 vols, \$50.
TWO-FISTED, 4 vols, \$90.
New Direction 1, 3 vols, \$70.
(**VALOR, M.D., IMPACT**)
New Direction 2, 4 vols, \$95.
(**PIRACY, ACES HIGH,
PSYCHOANALYSIS, EXTRA!**)

Beginning in the mid-70s, Russ Cochran has been reprinting the entire **EC Comics** line by title, from first issue to last, in hardbound, Smythe-sewn books. The **Complete EC Library** sets reprint each story page, local, house ad and text piece exactly as it appeared in the original comic, in black and white on white offset stock. The covers are in full four-color, and copious annotations by EC scholars appear throughout the series.

These sturdy, complete, permanent reference works are boxed by title in deluxe, illustrated slipcases. Each 9 by 12 inch volume reprints about six comic books.

Send orders to:

RUSS COCHRAN

US funds only

417-256-2224

POB 469

Missouri residents must add 6.225% sales tax

WEST PLAINS MO 65775

or to order call 1-800-EC CRYPT and ask for the order desk. **USE THIS NUMBER FOR ORDERS ONLY!**